A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, March 11. 1708

WE are now as full of the *French* fitting out their Squadron at *Dunkirk*, as we were formerly of the Siege of *Thoulon*, and every Body ſpending their Verdict upon them. But above all, commend me to a Sort of People, that are mighty Mercurial upon the Subject.

The French *a coming!* Says a famous fighting Alderman, *Cujus Contrarium, &c. Ah, Wou'd they would come, wou'd we had* 20000 *of them ſafe a Shoar*, I warrant you, they'd with themſelves at Home again. We'd teach them what it was to come among us, we'd ſhow them what it was to fight with *Engliſh* Men——— No, GOD forbid, ſays a Citizen that ſtood by, and ſo the Dialogue began.

Alderman. GOD forbid! Why GOD forbid? D'ye think we could not deal with them, d'ye think all *England* could not beat 20000 *French* Men? I warrant ye, we'd maul them.

Citizen. Yes, Mr. *Alderman*, if we were all as good Soldiers as your Worſhip; but I don't deſire to have them come hither for all that.

Ald. You don't deſire it, *you are a Fool*; do you think ye would not be a great Loſs to the Enemy to loſe 20000 Men at this Time of Day?

Cit. I don't pretend to be as wiſe as an *Alderman*, Sir, but your Worſhip need not call me Fool neither. I don't examine what Loſs it would be to the *French*

French to loſe 20000 Men, but I know what a Loſs we ſhould ſuffer, before we got them all kill'd here.

Ald. Why, prithee Man, our very Country People would eat them up.

Cit. Indeed, Sir, I did not know our Country People could eat *French* Men; they muſt be woundy hungry ſure, before they fed upon ſuch groſs Diet.

Ald. I mean Allegorically, Man; I don't mean eat their Fleſh.

Cit. I thought ſo, Sir, but I mean Literally they would eat a great Deal of our Fleſh, before we could come to look them in the Face; I mean our Cow-Fleſh, and Sheep-Fleſh our Country's Subſiſtence —— Pray, where would your Worſhip have them land?

Ald. In the *Weſt* of *England*, about where King *William* landed.

Cit. Devonſhire, &c. is very much obliged to your Worſhip; and, (1.) how long might 20000 Men ravage *Devonſhire*, *Cornwall*, *Somerſetſhire*, and *Derſetſhire*, before our Train-Bands could fight them? (2.) How long would it be before an Army of regular Troops could be drawn down to fight them?

Ald. O preſently, preſently, in leſs than a Months Time we would face them with 10000 Men, and cut them all to pieces.

Cit. Thank your Worſhip; ſo *Devonſhire*, &c. is by your own Rule left at the Mercy of a *French* Army a whole Month. Pray, was your Worſhip ever in the *Palatinate*?

Ald. No, not I.

Cit. Than I have, *may it pleaſe your Worſhip*, and there is ſtill to be ſeen the Remains of the Deva[illegible] a *French* Army made in leſs than 20 Days, in one of the pleaſanteſt Countries in all *Germany*, the City of *Hydelbergh*, and the fine Palace looks like old *Sarum*, or the Town of *Winchelſea*; if your Worſhip ſaw them, a meer Ruin, Poverty and Miſery covers the Face of the whole Country; the poor People look as if they had been haunted with Spectres, and many Ages will not recover the Ravages of the *French*, or put that Country into its former flouriſhing Condition; *Devonſhire* and the *Weſt* would pay dear for your Worſhip's Experiment.

Ald. Prithee, thou doſt not know *Devonſhire*; doſt know, 'tis one of the moſt populous Countries in *England*, and all the People would riſe as one Man, and fall upon them immediately, knock them all on the Head, and never give them Time to ſteal Mutton?

Cit. Excellent Good, if it were done as ſoon as ſaid! Pray, can your Worſhip give me one Inſtance in Hiſtory, or name the Time, whenever 20000 diſciplin'd Troops were beaten by the *Militia* of any Country in the World?

Ald. What do you tell me of Hiſtory and other Countries? Theſe People are *Engliſh* Men, I tell thee, and they are *French* Men; I tell thee, Man, they'll knock 'em o'th' Head like Dogs—— I would we had them ſafe a Shore—— We'd maul them——

Here's the true Picture of our numerous Politicians now, that know as much of Fighting, as *Don Quixot's Roſenante* did of Knight-Errantry. Really Gentlemen, this Notion of beating the *French* Troops, becauſe they are *French*, has been too fatal to us; and if our wiſer Generals had not ſometimes reſtrain'd us, we might have paid dear for deſpiſing the *French*—— I am for beating them as much as we can, but not contemning them; I muſt tell theſe Gentlemen who ſlight the *French* ſo much, and make them ſuch a deſpicable Enemy, that they hardly think it worth their Concern to keep them away: They make terrible Satyrs upon the preſent War, and the two laſt Years Campaign, in which theſe deſpicable People have knock'd many a brave *Engliſh* Man on the Head, and baulk'd a gallant Enterprize on *Thouſon*.

No, no, Gentlemen, never contemn this Enemy without beating him; let us learn to beat him, that's the beſt and greateſt Contempt you can throw upon him; but as for

for Goodman *Alderman* that wiſhes for them, I ſhall recommend him to the Uſe of ſome Proteſtant Spectacles, which the *French* are a bringing along with them to help our Eye ſight; and this brings me to tell you a ſtrange and wonderful Piece of News from *Dunkirk*.

Strange and wonderful News from *Dunkirk!* What is that now, ſays the inquiſitive Reader? Why it is neither relating to the Guns, or the Swords, the Arms, or the Ammunition, but a new Sort of Thing which the *French* are bringing over to us, in order to do us ſome Good by their new Invaſion—They have ſo many Regiments of Men, ſays one Paper, ſo many Muſquets, ſays another— But my Intelligence which I had by the laſt Expreſs from the Moon, tells me, they have loaded two Ships full of *French* Spectacles.

And what Uſe are they to put them to? Will they beſtow them now on us for our Uſe now, *ſays the Enquirer*? Yes, indeed they will, and very uſeful they will be to you; and all that you have Occaſion to have a Care of, is only not to buy them too dear; the *French* are Sharpers, and they will have a Price for them; but if you can get them at a reaſonable Rate, I aſſure you, they may do you a great Deal of Good, and I pretend to tell you plainly, we have need enough of them; let me tell you a little of the Nature, Uſe and Benefit of theſe Glaſſes, *and then we'll talk of their Price afterward.*

As to the Nature and Quality of them, be not at all nice and wary of uſing them, when they come; for notwithſtanding they come out of a *Popiſh* Country, and were made in *France*, they are true Proteſtant Spectacles, and will be of a very good Proteſtant Uſe; nay, they are fitter for Proteſtants to uſe, than any other People, and above all they are fitteſt for *Engliſh* and *Scotiſh* Proteſtants to look thro' than other People; for they have been ſo often uſed to ſhut their Eyes, till their Enemies open them, that no People in the World ſtand in need of *French* Spectacles like them.

In the next Place, to encourage you to make Uſe of theſe new faſhion'd Spectacles, let me take the Method of our Quack-Doctors, who, when they have wrought any conſiderable Cure, get the Patient to give them a Certificate of the Wonder wrought to the Honour and Glory of the Doctor, and this is carefully printed in the next publick Paper by Way of Improvement. Now, tho' by Reaſon of Diſtance, I cannot procure you Certificates from the Perſons who have had the Experience of the great Vertue and Uſefulneſs of theſe Spectacles, yet I can name them to you, and refer you to them for Vouchers of the Fact.

And firſt there is his Royal Higneſs the Duke of *S — y*, an Eminent, Faithful, Glorious, yet Suffering Ally; and tho' a *Roman Catholick*, yet heartily ſteady to the Intereſt on which the general Liberty in *Europe*, as well *Proteſtant* as *Roman*, is Eſtabliſh'd. How long did this Prince labour under ſome Imperfections in his Politick Eye-ſight, which occaſion'd him to make a ſeparate Peace, and as it were deſert the Allies, under which Diſtemper of his Opticks he had run himſelf into a thouſand Extremeties and Difficulties? And how near his Deſtruction was, his Highneſs himſelf in ſeveral Declarations of that Matter has ſince inform'd the World: And *pray how came he to recover his Eye-ſight?* Truly by the Help of theſe *French* Spectacles; upon the firſt Uſe of them, he ſaw preſently, all the Scales fell off from his Sight— And ſix Thouſand of his beſt Troops being *civilly diſarm'd by the* French *Generals*, and inſtead of Muſquets on their Shoulders, theſe uſeful Spectacles put on upon their Noſes, that Prince and all his People have been *clear-ſighted* ever ſince. *As to the Price be paid for them, I ſay, we'll refer that to another Head of Diſcourſe.*

In the next Place, you have the Princes of *Germany*, and they we find damnable dim-ſighted, harder to cure than other People, and preſently grow dark ſighted again— Now, tho' the Obſtinacy of the Diſeaſe in theſe dark-ſighted People makes the Cure the more difficult and leſs compleat, yet theſe *French* Spectacles have had very great Succeſs there at ſeveral Times; for Inſtance, if they are never ſo blind in the Beginning of the Year, if the *French* do

but

but pass the *Rhine* with 30 or 40000 of these Spectacles, and spread them over the Country, the *Germans* certainly recover their Sight in a most strange Manner, fly to Arms, send for Help, raise Troops, and hurry into the Field with so much Expedition, that they seldom fail being ready to march a little before their Enemies get Home again; nay, they are oftentimes in full *Battalia*, by that time the *French* Armies can get into Winter-Quarters, and all this by the wonderful Operation of these extraordinary Spectacles.

I might carry you to *Naples*, where great Cures have been lately wrought by these Spectacles, and that blind People see now so clearly, that they have entirely dismiss'd their Doctors, and pretend to be certain, the Dimness of their Sight shall never return.

I might lead you to other Nations, who are just now under the Operation of these wonderful Spectacles; and who, it is hoped, may in Time have their Sight recover'd, tho' at present the Cure is but in its Progression, such as *Sicily*, *Spain*, *Mexico* and *Peru*.

But it is too long a Narrative, I shall leave them to the Working of the Physick, and come in my next to some Countries, who having equal Dimness upon their Political Opticks, have not yet been bless'd with this Heavenly Application, tho' I don't know how soon they may.

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☞ I *Thomas Pritchard*, at the *Saracens-Head in Little Carter Lane*, near St. *Paul's*, *London*, having a Son who had a very bad Rupture, and applying to Mr. *Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* in *Prescot-street* in *Goodman's-Fields*, *London*, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprize, and my Son has remain'd well ever since.

This is to give Notice, that I *Richard Baker*, of *Lawrence-Poltneys Lane*, *Cannonstreet*, *London*, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at last I apply'd my self to the late Mr. *Christopher Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* by the Tavern in *Prescot-street* in *Goodman's-Fields*; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Trusses and Rupture Spirits, with the Blessing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever since, which is about four or five Years.

NOTE, His Son *P. Bartlett* lives at the same Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the same Business, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly Educated therein.

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